



SJ0055

LRB094 14987 LCT 50081 r

1 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Psychotropic medications play an essential role  
3 in the treatment of persons with serious mental illnesses; and

4 WHEREAS, Thousands of persons with serious mental  
5 illnesses receive psychotropic medications under the auspices  
6 of the Medicaid program operated by the Department of  
7 Healthcare and Family Services; and

8 WHEREAS, The Department of Healthcare and Family Services  
9 has adopted a policy of restricting access to three important  
10 anti-psychotic medications, Seroquel, Zyprexa and Risperdol  
11 Consta, used to treat schizophrenia and other serious mental  
12 illnesses by requiring physicians to obtain prior  
13 authorization from the Department before these medications are  
14 prescribed; and

15 WHEREAS, The Department of Healthcare and Family Services  
16 has imposed these restrictions with the sole purpose of cutting  
17 costs; and

18 WHEREAS, No one who testified at the sole hearing conducted  
19 by the Department of Healthcare and Family Services concerning  
20 its proposal to restrict access to antipsychotic medications  
21 supported the Department's proposal; and

22 WHEREAS, Despite the requirements of 305 ILCS 5/5-5.12 (d),  
23 the Department of Healthcare and Family Services has not  
24 conducted a study of the effects on patient care of requiring  
25 physicians to obtain prior authorization before prescribing  
26 Seroquel, Zyprexa, or Risperdol Consta for the treatment of  
27 serious mental illnesses; and

28 WHEREAS, The prior authorization requirements imposed by  
29 the Department are extremely burdensome and time consuming for

1 the physicians who treat Medicaid patients; thus, requiring  
2 prior authorization for medications effectively denies  
3 patients access to such medications; and

4 WHEREAS, The clinical effect and side effects of each  
5 medication used for the treatment of schizophrenia and other  
6 serious mental illnesses vary substantially among the persons  
7 treated with these medication; and

8 WHEREAS, Many persons who are on these medications have  
9 already tried all or most of the other medications available to  
10 treat these illnesses; and

11 WHEREAS, Thousands of persons in Illinois are being  
12 successfully treated with Seroquel, Zyprexa, or Risperdol  
13 Consta; and

14 WHEREAS, The Department of Healthcare and Family Services'  
15 new policy restricts access to Seroquel, Zyprexa, or Risperdol  
16 Consta for even those persons currently being successfully  
17 treated with these medications; and

18 WHEREAS, No clinical judgment supports changing persons  
19 being successfully treated with an antipsychotic medication to  
20 a different antipsychotic medication; and

21 WHEREAS, Persons with serious mental illnesses who are  
22 denied appropriate medications frequently become seriously  
23 ill, require expensive hospitalization, lose employment,  
24 become homeless, and disrupt their own lives and the lives of  
25 their families, friends, and communities; and

26 WHEREAS, The Department of Healthcare and Family Services'  
27 new policy denying persons with serious mental illnesses  
28 appropriate medications will costs State, county, and  
29 municipal taxpayers more money than it saves; and

1           WHEREAS, There are many other ways for the Department of  
2   Healthcare and Family Services to obtain cost savings in the  
3   Medicaid program without having a negative effect on the care  
4   of people with serious mental illnesses and their families,  
5   friends, and communities; therefore, be it

6           RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL  
7   ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
8   CONCURRING HEREIN, that the Department of Healthcare and Family  
9   Services should rescind its policy of requiring prior  
10   authorization for Zyprexa, Seroquel, and Risperdol Consta; and  
11   be it further

12          RESOLVED, That the Department of Healthcare and Family  
13   Services not impose restrictions on access to psychotropic  
14   medications unless such restrictions are based upon an  
15   independent clinical judgment; and be it further

16          RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be delivered to  
17   the Director of Healthcare and Family Services.